



Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding

Working to ensure maximum federal resources for housing and community development.

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 133
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Latham, Chair
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2358A
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 133
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Olver, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations T-HUD
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2358A
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Latham, Ranking Member Collins and Ranking Member Olver:

As you finalize fiscal year 2012 funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF) writes to express the strongest concern that this year's House and Senate bills have crossed an important line. The significant cuts made in these bills would cause thousands of individuals and families to lose their housing and exacerbate the economic hardships of thousands more in need of affordable housing and community development resources. At a time when the need for assistance from HUD programs is growing, the House and Senate bills would help even fewer people than those currently being assisted and deprive communities of critical funding.

This is simply not acceptable, and it is not necessary under the current budget framework that Congress is working within. The proposed cuts in the HUD budget are disproportionately deep; while the Budget Control Act mandates cuts of approximately 5% in non-security programs, the cuts to HUD are 7% (House) and 10% (Senate). Indeed, the proposed reductions in the HUD budget are historically deep. Under the House bill, the HUD budget would reach its lowest level since 2003, while the Senate legislation would leave HUD programs funded at the lowest since 2001 (both adjusted for inflation).

Affordable housing and community development funding prevents homelessness, protects vulnerable populations, and leverages private capital to produce desperately-needed affordable housing, while creating local construction jobs. At a time when the economy is stagnant, incomes are falling for working households, private capital is scarce, and homelessness is rising, a failure to preserve funding for affordable housing and community development programs will be nothing short of devastating for the most vulnerable constituents and communities you represent.

To protect these families and communities, we strongly urge you to increase funding for HUD programs above the levels in the House and Senate bills. This could be achieved by adopting the House allocation for HUD programs and then utilizing additional budget authority created by the Senate's proposed

rescissions, so long as any included rescissions do not result in increased hardship for low income families or communities.

CHCDF members represent a full continuum of national affordable housing and community development organizations, including faith-based, private and public sector, financial intermediary, civil rights, developer, and advocacy groups. These groups work to meet the needs of low and moderate income renters and homeowners in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
Jesuit Conference
LeadingAge (*formerly AAHSA*)
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lutheran Services in America
Mercy Housing
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center on Family Homelessness
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Development Association
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Disability Rights Network
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Conference
National Housing Trust
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network for Youth
National Network to End Domestic Violence
Poverty and Race Research Action Council
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Reconnecting America
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future
Travelers Aid International

Cc: Hon. Daniel Inouye
Hon. Thad Cochran
Hon. Harold Rogers
Hon. Norm Dicks